

Comments on Seed-eaters of the Genus *Amaurospiza*," written in collaboration with the Academy's Curator of Birds and Mammals, Dr. Robert T. Orr, and published in the Condor in November, 1945, was based in part on this material.

Mr. Ray took an active interest in the Academy, and constantly sought opportunities to assist its work. Members of the staff looked forward to his frequent and stimulating visits. In his passing they have lost a wise and helpful counselor, a co-worker and a friend.



PACIFIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE

A CONFERENCE of scientific men interested in research in the Pacific area was held in Washington, D. C., on June 6, 7 and 8, under the auspices of the National Research Council. The Academy was represented at this meeting by Dr. R. C. Miller, Director, and Dr. W. M. Chapman, Curator of Fishes, and by Dr. George S. Myers of Stanford University, a member of the Academy's Council.



PHOTOGRAPHING SCIENCE

THROUGH arrangement with the editors of LIFE Magazine, the Academy is exhibiting an unusual series of scientific photographs made for that magazine by Fritz Gore. Enlarged and mounted on panels 28 by 38 inches, they form a striking and informative exhibit. Many of the photographs were made with specially built equipment and often involved Mr. Gore in months of preparation.

Micro-waves, electronics, alternating current and atomic energy are among the subjects featured. The exhibit will be on display through June 24.



APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting on May 16, 1946, approved the applications of Mr. Stanley H. Barrows, Dr. Leonard H. Day and Dr. Lloyd B. Dickey for MEMBERSHIP, and of Mr. Bertram Black, Mr. Richard Cooper, Mr. Walter Dempsey, Mr. Donald R. Galli, Miss Lynne Jackson, Mr. Karl Marhenke and Mr. West Woon for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after June 14, they will be considered elected.

SECTION 562 P.L. & R.

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

Number 78

June, 1946

June Announcement

THE REGULAR JUNE MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at the University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, on Thursday, June 20, at 2:00 p.m., in conjunction with the Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The program will consist of a report of the Academy's Committee on Latent Natural Resources, to be given by Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director of the Academy and Chairman of the Committee; a paper by Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, the Academy's Curator of Paleontology, on the topic, "The Use of Obsidian in the Manufacture of Optical Parts"; and a paper by Dr. Wilbert M. Chapman, the Academy's Curator of Fishes, entitled "Observations on Tuna-like Fishes in the Tropical Pacific." These reports all relate to the purposes of the Committee, which was set up to search for natural resources hitherto undeveloped.

This is, to the best of our knowledge, the first time a regular meeting of the California Academy of Sciences has been held outside the state; but it appears practicable in view of the number of members of the Academy who will wish to attend the other meetings scheduled in Reno during the same week.

A special meeting of the Academy was held in Salt Lake City in 1942, also in conjunction with an annual meeting of the Pacific Division, A.A.A.S.

Published Monthly by

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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MILTON S. RAY

MILTON S. RAY • 1881-1946

MILTON S. RAY, a member of the California Academy of Sciences for seventeen years, and for the past five years a Research Associate in the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, died suddenly on May 5, 1946, without any previous illness.

Thus ended as he would have wished it the career of a singularly energetic, forceful and dramatic personality who—if he ever suspected that such adjectives might be applied to him—gave no sign of it in his direct, unassuming and friendly manner. Milton Ray was a man of remarkably versatile interests and talents. Through the invention and marketing of an oil-burner, and subsequent successful expansion into other fields, he built up a fortune which to many men would have represented an end in itself. To Milton Ray it was merely a competence which enabled him to pursue his numerous interests.

In striking contrast with his role as business man and industrialist, Mr. Ray wrote and published several volumes of poetry, and was prominently mentioned for the post of Poet-laureate of California. His "The Farallones, the Painted World, and Other Poems of California," was published in a limited edition of beautiful format by John Henry Nash in 1934. This led to an enduring friendship and in later years, as one of his quiet philanthropies, Mr. Ray purchased the distinguished John Henry Nash Library on Printing for the University of California.

From his boyhood days Mr. Ray had been keenly interested and active in the field of ornithology. One of his earliest contributions was a paper entitled "A Summer Trip to Yosemite," published in the *Osprey* in 1898, describing the habits of several avian species. Between 1898 and 1946 he was the author of approximately fifty scientific papers relating to California ornithology. His persistence and alertness as a field observer led him among other things to the discovery of the nests and eggs of three restricted and elusive species of birds in this state, the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, the California Pine Grosbeak, and the Western Goshawk.

During his earlier years Mr. Ray devoted much of his limited leisure to studying the birds of the Lake Tahoe region. To him also goes credit for much of our knowledge of the birds of the Farallone Islands around the turn of the century. His own private collection of bird's eggs and skins, which he began amassing as a youth, gradually increased to such proportions that he adopted for it the name Pacific Museum of Ornithology. While Mr. Ray was perhaps most interested in the birds of his home state, he by no means restricted his collection in a geographical sense, but attempted to secure representative specimens of bird skins and eggs from all parts of the world. During the past several years he enrolled the services of a private collector to obtain scientific study skins of birds from Guerrero, Mexico, a region heretofore relatively unexplored by ornithologists. His last scientific paper, "Critical